

“I came across this quote on in the group and I found it to be breathtaking. "If we did not shun there would be no Jehovah's Witnesses. Bad association spoils useful habits" It appears that coercion is the glue that holds the world together. Not a pretty picture.”

“People may believe the most peculiar ideas, not because there is any evidence to show that they are *true*, but because there is little or no evidence to show that they are *false*. For many centuries people believed that the earth was flat, simply because this view could not easily be tested and disproven. Many ideas that have been tied to prophecies in the Bible also definitely belong to this category. These clearly include some appended to Jesus’ statement about the “times of the Gentiles” at Luke 21:24. For example, the Bible nowhere explicitly states:

- 1) that Jesus, in speaking of these “Gentile times,” had in mind the “seven times” of Nebuchadnezzar’s madness mentioned in the book of Daniel, chapter 4;
- 2) that these “seven times” were seven *years*;
- 3) that these “years” were not ordinary Babylonian calendar years, but “prophetic years” of 360 days each, and therefore should be summed up as 2,520 days;
- 4) that these 2,520 days not only applied to the period of Nebuchadnezzar’s madness, but also would have a *greater* fulfillment;
- 5) that in this greater fulfillment *days* should be counted as *years*, so that we get a period of 2,520 years; and
- 6) that this 2,520-year period started when Nebuchadnezzar, in his 18th regnal year, desolated the city of Jerusalem.

None of these six assumptions can be verified by clear Biblical statements. They are, in fact, nothing but a *chain of haphazard guesses*. Yet, since the Bible does not discuss or even mention any of these ideas, it nowhere explicitly says they are false either.

However, when it is further claimed (7) that Nebuchadnezzar’s desolation of Jerusalem took place in 607 B.C.E., we have reached a point in the train of thought that *can* be tested and disproven.”